

FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

1 Cor 9:1-14

Greeks hated physical labor.

Jews exalted hard, physical work.

Rabbis practiced a trade.

Paul, having been a member of Sanhedrin--tentmaker and worker of leather

Issue: Should a minister be financially supported by church?

Yes! However, he has right to limit his freedom

Biblical basis for financial support of those in full time ministry.

I. Apostleship (1-6)

1 Cor. 9:1 Apostle: witness of life, doctrines, death, and resurrection of Lord Jesus(Acts 1:21-22).

Commissioned to lay foundation of NT church (Eph 2.20).

am I not free? Unrestrained, without obligation.

Free to enjoy domestic relations of life

Abstain from manual labor or participate.

have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Credentials of being apostle (Acts 1:21-22)

are not ye my work in the Lord? You are product and proof of my ministry

Your changed lives are evidence of my labor for Lord.

1 Cor. 9:2

Skeptics and critics around.

They were doing everything they could do to discredit Paul and his ministry.

Discredit messenger--discredit message.

You know I am the real thing.

seal of mine apostleship You are my certificate.

Seal: Something attached to document, deed, letter, instrument to make it firm, secure, valid and certain.

1 Cor. 9:3 Examine: forensic term. Used by courts of law.

Refers to judges

Answer: my defense, proper legal defense.

1 Cor. 9:4 Power: Right, authority.

Mac: *Have we not the right to our food and drink (at the expense of the churches).*

Paul's first statement--ministers supported

1 Co. 9:5 Paul implying--supported financially by people to whom ministering, as well as wife.

Ie. Don't I have the authority/right to marry a Christian woman and have her at my side wherever I go in the ministry?

Paul had been married.

Member of Sanhedrin.

... the brethren of the Lord Mary Immaculate had other children.

Matt. 13:55-56

At first, Jesus' family not believe in Him (Jn 7:5).

Later converted and served as ministers and evangelists.

Barnes:took their wives with them in the ministry.

Perpetual virginity of Mary-Matt 13:55-56 names of Mary's other sons

Primacy of Peter (first Pope)

Celibacy of the clergy. Peter had mother in law Matt. 8:14-15

1 Cor. 9:6 Forbear: refrain, cease from.

Working: manual labor, secular work.

We have right to refrain from tent-making and receive financial support.

Criticisms about Paul:

1. Not seen Jesus. Therefore, not apostle.
2. Unmarried.
3. He and Barnabas worked secular job.
4. He did not demand support.

Paul, at times, did receive support (Acts 16-17).

II. Common Sense.

A. Soldiers. 1 Cor. 9:7

B. Farmers

Barnes: *The vineyard owes its beauty, growth, and productiveness to him. It is reasonable, therefore, that from the vineyard he should receive a support as a compensation for his toil.*

C. Shepherds.

Feed: more than providing food. Guard, protect, defend, as shepherd does his flock (Jn 21:15-17).

Shepherds in Ethiopia: paid by milk and butter.

1 Tim 1:18; Lk 20:9-16; Isa 5:1-4; Jn 21:15-17.

III. OT Principle

1 Cor. 9:8

I am telling you what OT law says.

1 Cor. 9:9 Quotes from Deut 25:4

Muzzle mouth of oxen: *to bind he mouth; to fasten the mouth to prevent eating or biting*. Webster's Dictionary.

Place straps around mouth or place small basket over mouth, to prevent from eating

That treadeth out the corn. Animal trample corn,

Paul takes OT passage to prove NT principle?

Taken law and applied to grace.

Paul saying, you think that God only had oxen in mind? 1 Cor. 10:11

1 Cor. 9:10 Significance not the oxen.

Both plower and thresher able to labor knowing share the crops.

Full-time Christian worker--God provide needs from fruits of labor.

1 Cor. 9:11 If poured our lives into helping you spiritually is it big deal if you reciprocate by taking care of our material needs?

Mac: *The only difference is the principle as applied to the Lord's service is that material payment is given for spiritual work. The Lord provides His own spiritual rewards, but His people are to provide material reward, and provide it generously as unto Him.*

1 Tim. 5:17

1 Cor. 9:12 ...*not used this power*; haven't put to practice this right, even though have this right.

Suffer: endure; bear or pass over in silence.

Bore without complaint things necessary to complete ministry.

Mac: *His customary way of life was self-denial.*

How Paul pay own way? Tent-maker. Acts 18:3

Principle: If receiving financial support a stumbling block--don't receive it.

Church in Corinth always supported pastors.

Paul had right to receive support, but didn't.

1 Cor. 9:13 Spiritual ministry in OT supported by tithes--money, crops, animals.

Also supported by sacrifices which people gave (Num 18:8-24).

... partakers with the altar? Those who serve at altar get share of sacrificial offerings.

His thought--always been this way.

Abraham giving tithes to Melchizedek (Gen 14:18-20).

1 Cor. 9:14 Jesus ordained principle of giving.

Paul had right to ask for financial support.

Why? Ordained from Lord.

God commands His people to offer support but doesn't command His ministers to accept it.